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PHYSICIANS, THE CLIMATE, AND DISEASES, IN MINNESOTA TERRITORY.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

DEAR SIR,—Your Journal reaches me here in the far North-west, forming the only link that connects me with the medical brotherhood in the East and South, and it affords me much pleasure to read its pages. Its perusal causes the return of that disease which has occasionally afflicted me at the East—called, in plain English, the *writing madness*. The effects of a paroxysm, you can trace in the scribblings that follow.

On the 23d of July, 1853, the first medical society was organized in this Territory, and christened, "The Minnesota Medical Society." Considering that there are scarcely twenty regular physicians in the Territory, the meeting was well attended, matters were discussed in a friendly manner, and the following officers chosen:—Dr. Potts, of St. Paul, *President;* Dr. Ames, of Minneapolis, and Dr. Murphy, of St. Anthony, *Vice Presidents;* Dr. Anderson, of St. Anthony, *Recording Secretary;* Dr. Goodrich, *Treasurer;* Dr. Mann, *Corresponding Secretary;* and Drs. Day, Dewey and Finch, *Censors*. The last five officers are residents of St. Paul. Though few in numbers, we mean to do what we *can* to sustain and advance medical science in this new Territory; and we hope to receive the *good wishes* at least of the older societies in the States.

Though Minnesota, from present appearances, seems to be the healthiest portion of our country, yet, as it is attached to a world cursed by sin, disease and death are here; and the true physician can find problems enough to solve, and subjects enough for patient study and investigation. The effects of our pure bracing air, and even-tempered seasons, on the tuberculous emigrant from the fickle climate of New York or New England, or on the jaundiced victim of malaria from the States below and east of us, afford ample scope for research. Here, too, we can watch the effects of the blending of races. We have here the half, quarter, and all degrees of Indian blood; mixed with the Anglo-Saxon, French, Celtic, &c. Minnesota is rich, too, in botany, mineralogy, and the kindred natural sciences, in which physicians are usually interested. Upon some of these, and many other points, we hope our Society at its

succeeding annual meetings will throw some light, and in such a shape that benefit will follow.

It is useless for me to speak of the scenery of our Territory, for our summer tourists have written of our beautiful landscapes, water falls, lakes, rivers and prairies, till Minnesota seems to many like Dreamland. But aside from all this, we have a rich, productive soil, a healthy climate, with a surface of country sufficiently diversified with hills and valleys, prairie and woodland, to suit the varied tastes of the emigrant; and here, if anywhere in the great West, will persons from the eastern States be suited, if in search of a *home*. Many are coming here in search of health, from nearly every State in the Union; but how far broken-down constitutions may be recruited here, with the exposures and privations incident to a new country, time alone will fully show. At present, however, many report themselves as very much benefited That persons in sound health can live here as long as anywhere else, or a little longer, I have no doubt. We are so far removed from the ocean and large lakes, also from high mountain ranges, that the seasons are but little disturbed in their accustomed round. Summer moves along steadily, with but few sudden changes; and in autumn, when, at the East, winter and summer are quarrelling for weeks, with a dash of summer one day and of winter the next, we have here our quiet, modest Indian summer, passing quietly along, till old winter takes possession by throwing his robe of snow over all. Our winter is a genuine winter, almost entirely exempt from those *thaws* which in New England are so productive of pneumonia, pleuritis, rheumatism, consumption, &c.

In regard to consumptives removing here, they will no doubt be benefited if the disease is not too far advanced; provided they have the means to avoid the exposures of a frontier life, and can make themselves as comfortable as at home. Take, for example, a large class, who are able to keep about and attend to business, but whose lungs contain more or less tuberculous deposits, ready to take on inflammation or ulceration, with every change of weather, unless the system is guarded and protected with especial care and attention. These usually disregard the opinion of the honest physician, that medicine can do but little for them, and that diet, regimen and pure air can do much; and commence devouring quack medicines, "*warranted to cure consumption*" !! Each new remedy makes them *feel* better, and they are *quite sure* it is curing them, until the physician is again called, not to cure them, but to alleviate their sufferings, and smooth the passage to the grave. Now if such will come out to Minnesota, I will not *warrant a cure*, for many had rather die than get well without medicine; but I *will warrant* that our climate will do them more good than all the patent medicine manufactured since the time old Beelzebub offered a dose to our first parents. For those who are in the last stages of consumption, I have no advice, for I have long been of the opinion that for such, "there is no place like *home*."

In conclusion, I will say, that if physicians or others have any particular questions to ask in regard to Minnesota, I will answer them with pleasure.

St. Paul, Min. Ter., Sept. 21, 1853. Ww. W. Finch, M.D.

EARLY HISTORY OF THE MEDICAL PROFESSION IN NORFOLK CO.

[Continued from page 205.]

DOVER.

Dover, originally a part of Dedham, was incorporated in 1784. The only physician who has resided in Dover for any length of time, so far as I have been informed, was Dr. George Caryl.

Dr. C. was a native of Dover. His father was Rev. Benjamin Caryl, and his mother Sarah Kollock, widow of Dr. Cornelius Kollock formerly of Wrentham. He was born in 1767; graduated at Harvard College in 1788; studied medicine with Dr. Samuel Willard, of Uxbridge; settled as a physician in Dover in 1791 or 1792, where he died August 9, 1829, aged 62.

MEDFIELD.

Medfield was incorporated January 1, 1650.

Rev. John Wilson, who graduated in 1642, in the first class in Harvard College, was installed pastor in Medfield in 1651, and united in himself the triple office of school-master, preacher, and physician. He died August 23, 1691, aged 70, having preached all day on the Sabbath preceding his death.

Dr. Joseph Baxter, son of Rev. Joseph Baxter the second minister of Medfield, graduated at Harvard College in 1724. He studied medicine, and died of smallpox, but the time and place of his death I have not ascertained.

Dr. James Jerauld came from France. He settled in the easterly part of Medfield, before 1733, and had a large landed estate there, which he cultivated with slave labor. He was for many years extensively and successfully engaged in the practice of medicine, and died October 25, 1760.

Dr. James Jerauld, 2d, was nephew of the preceding; was adopted as a son and educated by him, and settled in the same place. He became eminent in his profession. He was some time in public life, having been elected a delegate to the Massachusetts Convention for forming a constitution in 1779. He married an Arnold, from Providence, R. I., and left six children. He died March 28, 1802, aged nearly 80.

Dr. Elias Mann was the son of Sabin Mann, Esq. He graduated at Harvard College in 1800, M.B. 1805, and after a short but brilliant career, died March 9, 1807, aged 29.

Dr. Lothario Donielson was a native of Brimfield, studied medicine with Dr. Ebenezer Phillips, of Charlton, and settled in Medfield before 1800. In 1826 he removed to Rochester, N. Y., thence to Michigan, where he died June 21, 1844, aged 79.

Drs. Donielson and Mann, in 1806, attended several cases of "*spotted fever*"; a disease which in that year commenced its ravages in Medfield, and afterwards became epidemic and spread throughout New England. Their account of the disease and of its treatment was first published in the Medical and Agricultural Register, and afterwards copied into the Communications of the Massachusetts Medical Society, Vol. II., page 36.

Dr. James Hewins graduated at Harvard College in 1804, and settled in Medfield soon after the death of Dr. Mann. He was a medical pupil of Dr. Abijah Richardson, had a large circle of practice, and was much esteemed, both as a physician and citizen. He died in August, 1846, at the age of 64.

I find on the town records the name of Dr. Thomas Lowthrain, late of Perth, Scotland, who died December 15, 1749; also of Dr. Jabez Fuller, who died Oct. 5, 1781.

MEDWAY.

Medway was incorporated in 1713.

Dr. Aaron Wight studied medicine with Dr. Thomas Kittredge of Andover, and married Dr. K.'s daughter for his first wife. He was afterwards twice married, and had ten children. He was an intelligent physician, and devoted considerable attention to surgery. In consequence of disease in one of his lower limbs, he was under the necessity of having it amputated. The operation was successfully performed by Dr. Miller, of Franklin. In early life, it is believed about the year 1780, he had a smallpox hospital in Medfield, in connection with Dr. Jerauld. He died in 1813, aged 71.

Dr. Abijah Richardson was born in Medway, August 30, 1752. In 1770, he entered Harvard College, where he remained two years. He then commenced the study of medicine. Having completed his studies, he entered the Revolutionary Army in the capacity of Surgeon's Mate, under Dr. Samuel Whitwell. He afterwards received a Surgeon's commission, and continued in the service of his country until the close, or near the close, of the war. He then settled as a physician in Medway, and there continued in the active and successful performance of the duties of his profession until his death, which occurred May 10, 1822, at the age of 70.

Few physicians pass their professional career more honored and beloved. He was an eminent botanist; indefatigable in the pursuit of knowledge, and with a memory so retentive, that he seldom forgot what he had once acquired. He performed the duties of every relation in life with the most scrupulous exactness. He was affable, communicative, benevolent; but not obtrusive. He was an honor to his profession and to his country; and for many years to come his memory will be held in grateful recollection in the vicinity in which he lived.

He married Mercy Daniels, by whom he had a numerous family. She still lives, at the age of 97, receiving from her grateful and prosperous country a handsome annual pension as a token of gratitude for services rendered by her husband in "the day which tried men's souls."

NEEDHAM.

Dr. William Deming appears to have been the earliest physician in Needham. He married Rebecca Peabody in 1759, and died of the "great cold," or influenza, probably in 1789.

Dr. Peter Fisk was a physician in West Needham. He removed to Warwick, and there died.

Dr. Isaac Morrill, of West Needham, was son of Rev. Isaac Morrill, of Wilmington. He was born in 1747, and died in May, 1839, aged 92. He settled in Natick before the commencement of the Revolutionary war. He was eminent in his profession, and highly respected in every relation of life. A short biographical notice of his character was published in the Boston Chronicle and Patriot, May 22, 1839.

Dr. Timothy Fuller was a native of Needham. He graduated at Harvard College in 1787, studied medicine with Dr. Willard, and settled as a physician in East Needham, where he died in 1799.

Dr. Samuel Adams, who received the degree of M.B. at Harvard in 1794, and M.D. in 1802, settled in East Needham. He removed thence to Boston, and afterwards to Cincinnati, where he died in 1845, aged 74.

Dr. Samuel Gould was for a time at East Needham. He removed to West Roxbury, where it is said he died in 1850 or 1851.

Dr. Josiah Noyes succeeded Dr. Gould. He was born at Acton, Oct. 8, 1811; studied medicine with Dr. Dunbar, of Westmoreland, N. H.; received the degree of M.D. at Dartmouth College in 1825, and settled in East Needham, where he continues to reside. He is distinguished for his acquaintance with botany.

BELLINGHAM.

Bellingham was set off from Dedham May 11, 1719, and incorporated November 27. The Congregational Church over which Rev. Jonathan Mills was ordained pastor in 1727, has long been extinct.

Dr. John Corbett was the earliest physician in Bellingham. He married Mehitable Rockwood.

Dr. John Corbett, son of the preceding, was born March, 1704; became a physician, resided in his native place, and practised medicine. He married Hopestil Chapin, and died in 1794, aged 90. Dr. Corbett was a very successful practitioner, possessed a large landed estate, and had great influence in the town. He was a man of ardent feelings and uncommon decision of character. Upon the first news of hostilities with the mother country, he took a decided stand in favor of liberty. During the last half of his life, he labored under a serious disability in regard both to speech and locomotion; yet as his bodily health was otherwise good, by means of a kind of chair fixed on wheels, and a well-trained horse, he continued to do a large business in his profession, and finally died of old age, after having seen the snows of ninety winters.

Dr. John Scammell was the son of Dr. Samuel Leslie Scammell, of Milford. His mother was Bethiah, a daughter of Dr. John Corbett. His grandfather, Dr. Samuel Leslie Scammell, emigrated to this country from Portsmouth, England, A.D. 1738, and settled in that part of Mendon now called Milford, and died A.D. 1753, aged 45. He left two sons, Dr. Samuel Leslie, already alluded to, and Alexander. This Alexander distinguished himself in the Revolution; was at one time one of General Washington's adjutants, and was officer of the day at the execution of Andre. Wishing for more active service, he took the colonelship of a select corps, and was slain a few days before the surrender of Cornwallis, aged 37. A monument is erected over his grave at Williamsburg, Va.,

and he is pictured among a group of officers in one of those large paintings which grace the walls of the Rotunda at Washington. He was an intimate friend of the first General Dearborn, who named his son, General Henry Alexander Scammell Dearborn, after him.

Dr. John Scammell studied medicine with his father in Milford, and after the death of his grandfather, Dr. Corbett, removed to Bellingham to take possession of a farm inherited from him. He was a man of a most amiable disposition, and was eminently skilful and successful in his profession. He was for nearly forty years a cotemporary with Dr. Thurber, whose residence was very near to his own; and during this whole period these two excellent physicians lived on terms of the most perfect harmony. In the various relations of life he was highly esteemed, discharging the duties of those relations in a manner alike honorable to himself and acceptable to the community in which he lived. In April of the year preceding his death he unfortunately fractured the neck of the thigh bone, which never united. He died March 9, 1845, aged 84.

Dr. Daniel Thurber first settled in East Bellingham, but soon removed just within the limits of Mendon. He was very highly esteemed as a man and medical practitioner. He was a good writer, but lacked the gift of public speaking. He was warm in his friendships, and perhaps it should be added equally implacable when offended. The dishonorable practitioner found in him no countenance. He was firm and decided in his principles and practice; and his advice in cases of difficulty was much sought by his medical brethren. In 1825 he received from Brown University the honorary degree of M.D., and the following year a similar degree was conferred upon him at Harvard. As a further proof that his memory is still gratefully cherished, it may be added, that a medical association has been recently formed in the town of Milford, composed of physicians in that and the neighboring towns, who, to show their respect for his character, have taken the name of the "Thurber Medical Association." Dr. Thurber died of paralysis, in 1836, aged 70; and an obituary notice of his character was at that time promised, but, if I am correctly informed, has never been published.

Dr. Jonathan Thayer, who was born in 1717 and died about 1760, was a physician in Bellingham, and is represented to have held a good standing in his profession.

A few other physicians have practised there. Among these may be named Dr. William Whitaker and Dr. Collins; also Dr. Timothy Merriam, who soon removed to Framingham, where he died in 1833, aged 76.

WALPOLE.

Walpole was set off from Dedham in 1724.

Dr. Ebenezer Doggett was the earliest physician there. He was a native of Attleborough, and a grandson of John Doggett, of Watertown, who removed to Martha's Vineyard in 1642. He was much respected, and had a large circle of practice not only in Walpole, but also in Foxborough and Wrentham. To this latter place he finally removed, where he died of cancer in the breast, Feb. 26, 1782.

Dr. Rhodes, of Boston, succeeded Dr. Doggett, and remained two years.

Dr. Seth Mann, a native of Walpole, and medical pupil of Dr. Doggett, was the next physician. He died about 1826.

Dr. James Messinger died in Walpole in 1821, aged 51.

Dr. Jonathan Wild was a native of Randolph, and a medical pupil of Dr. Moses Baker, of that town. He commenced business in Walpole in 1780. He was a worthy man; somewhat credulous in his temperament, but notwithstanding this infirmity a useful physician and good citizen. He was born in 1753, and died in October, 1833.

Dr. Knapp resided in Walpole a few years, and then removed to Cumberland, R. I.

Dr. Abel Wilder succeeded Dr. Knapp, but soon removed to Mendon.

Dr. Jonathan Ware was for a time a resident in Walpole, previously to his settlement in Milton.

Dr. Ebenezer Stone settled in Walpole in 1824, where he still remains in successful practice.

Dr. Henry B. Tappan took up his residence in Walpole in 1849, remained one year, and then removed to Central America, where he died in 1852.

WRENTHAM.

Wrentham was originally a part of Dedham, from which town it was set off March 27, 1661, when it contained but sixteen families; but it was not incorporated until October 15, 1673. In consequence of an Indian war, which occurred in 1676, the settlement was for a time abandoned. In 1680 the inhabitants returned.

I regret that my inquiries respecting the early physicians in this town have been less successful than I could have desired. I proceed, however, to present such facts as are in my possession.

Dr. Benjamin Ware was born in Wrentham, July 8, 1688, and died Jan. 16, 1744, aged 56. He married Melatiah, relict of Jonathan Ware, Esq., who after his death became the wife of Col. Ephraim Leonard, of Mansfield. Dr. Ware was reputed to have been a worthy physician and much respected as a citizen.

Dr. Cornelius Kollock is supposed to have been the second resident physician in Wrentham. He married Sarah, daughter of Rev. Henry Messinger, who after her husband's death became the wife of Rev. Benjamin Caryl, of Dover. Dr. Kollock died January 22, 1754.

Dr. John Druce was a native of Brookline; graduated at Harvard College in 1738; studied medicine at Watertown; settled as a physician in Wrentham about the year 1740; married Margaret Trowbridge, of Newton; had six children, one of whom, Mrs. Nancy Guild, is still living at the age of 98, having been born Feb. 9, 1755, to whom I am indebted for the facts respecting her father. He was much respected as a physician, and died of consumption at the age of 55.

Dr. Daniel Fisher died March 29, 1774.

Dr. Samuel Brenton died Jan. 3, 1791, aged 34. He was a young man of great promise, and much respected.

Dr. John Fales died April 9, 1803, aged 61.

Dr. Jenckes Norton died May 1, 1796, aged 37. His residence was in North Wrentham.

Dr. Cyrus Bean was the son of Rev. Joseph Bean, had a respectable but not a widely-extended practice, and died April 5, 1813, aged 54.

Dr. James Mann was a native of Wrentham, and for more than twenty years a distinguished practitioner of medicine and surgery in that place. He graduated at Harvard College in 1776, and M.D. Brown University, 1815. He studied medicine in Boston under the direction of Dr. Danforth. Immediately after completing his pupilage, he joined the Revolutionary Army as a surgeon, but after three years' service his enfeebled health compelled him to resign. "He was a scientific practitioner—bold and intrepid, but not adventurous." He was the author of two essays to which the first Boylston medical prizes were awarded in 1804, and "his subsequent writings received the decided approbation of the profession." "Dr. Mann was appointed a hospital surgeon in the United States Army in 1812; and was at the head of the medical staff on the northern frontier during the late war. The arduous duties of this highly responsible station he discharged with distinguished ability, and to universal satisfaction." He died in New York, Nov. 1832.

Dr. Samuel Bugbee graduated at Brown University in 1802; M.D. 1816; and died July 14, 1841, aged 60. He was a medical pupil of Dr. Mann; was an active and enterprising physician, and enjoyed a wide circle of professional business. His death was occasioned by a disease of the heart, an account of which was published in the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal, Vol. XXV., p. 64.

Dr. Luther W. Sherman was a native of Wayland, where he was born in 1806. He studied medicine with Dr. Ebenezer Ames, of that place, and first setted as a physician at Falmouth. In 1835 he removed to Wrentham, where he continued until his death, which occurred October 29, 1837. He had the reputation of a conscientious and devotedly pious man; was much respected as a physician; and bore repeated afflictions with exemplary patience and Christian resignation.

A few other physicians have resided in Wrentham for longer or shorter periods, most of whom have removed to other places.

[To be continued.]

SENSITIVE ATTRACTION.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

The supposition has prevailed that trees and plants grew in a perpendicular direction because it was natural. The following experiments will show that it is no more natural for them to grow in this direction than any other, or, in other terms, no more a matter of necessity.

1.—Placed a young geranium, one foot in height, in a south window, the recess 18 inches; the surfaces of the leaves faced the north, and the stems leaned to the north about 23 degrees. In six days, the leaves and stems were drawn to the south, and all leaned as much in that direction. The temperature the same in doors and out. This experiment was repeated five or six times, and the same effect took place in cloudy as in sunshiny weather. Some of the leaves and leafstalks were drawn

the space of eight inches; others three and four. By turning round the pot, the leaves faced the north, and in an hour or two some movement to the south could be seen and measured.

2.—The weather being warm in the last of April, the leaves and leaf-stalks of the geranium were drawn from a vertical to a horizontal position, in the space of two days. In four days the main stem and its branches changed from leaning at an angle of 45 degrees north, to a vertical position.

3.—The same geranium, in May, was placed in a north window, the curtain let down to the top of the pot, so that the light came from below the plant. In two days the leaves were drawn three inches by measurement in a downward direction. The places where they stood each morning and night were marked on the curtain. Each night the leaves and stalks rose up about half that distance. This partial return to their former state, in the absence of light, is a fact which will explain a great many other phenomena in plants. The plant stood in this situation until the main stem and all its branches grew in a downward direction to the open space where the light was admitted at the bottom of the window. Several of the leaves and leaf-stalks grew in an inverted position, their surfaces facing the earth completely.

This experiment was tried upon a pea plant with the same result. It grew in an upward, downward or horizontal direction, just as the light fell upon it.

4.—The geranium was made to grow in five different directions, in which state it may now be seen, having wooded and become a shrub.

5.—In the last of May, the geranium was placed in a south window, the sun shining full, and, in six hours, one particular leaf and stalk was drawn in a downward direction four inches; other leaves, two and three inches. They stood perpendicularly at first, and were drawn downward by the angle at which the rays of light fell upon them.

6.—After the geranium had been growing for some time in a downward direction, in a north window, where no light came from the south or any other direction, it was removed to a south window, where the light came only from that direction, and in four days one of the young stems was drawn or attracted through the space of nine inches. In a lively, growing state, the attractive force of light is much greater than when the plant grows slow. Affinity to light seems to depend upon the degree of life which the plant possesses. Upon a dead vegetable there is no attraction. In chemical and other species of affinity the matter upon which such affinities act, is inert.

7.—On exposing the backs of leaves to the direct rays of the sun, the leaves were, in three or four days, folded together, the stalks having attained their full growth and become stiff. This shows that the affinity to light commences on the very edge of the surface. To the back of the leaf there appears to be no affinity.

8.—Portulacca plants were tried in the same way as the geranium, with the same results. They were placed in a south window, two feet within the outside of the house, in the months of August and September, and from a perpendicular they would be attracted to the south,

three and four inches in a day, and partially return to an upright position during the night. The stems were made to grow in a downward, horizontal or erect position, just as the light fell upon them.

In these experiments, the attractive power of light was much greater than the writer had previously believed. They demonstrate that vegetables do not simply grow in the direction of light, but that in spite of gravitation, they are drawn towards it in whatever direction it comes to them. If most light comes from the north, they are drawn in that direction; if from the east, west or south, they are drawn in those directions. If it comes from above they grow erect, and if from below they grow inverted. They follow, with mathematical precision, the direction in which the rays of light come to them, as well in cloudy days as when the sun shines.

9.—Portulacca stems grew in a downward direction more perfectly by placing the pot on a looking-glass, and inverting another pot over it, with a space between them to admit the light, at the same time elevating one side of the glass to reflect the light directly upward. The same was tried upon plants placed in a window, with a curtain down nearly to the bottom of the window.

10.—Buckwheat plants were made to grow downward, horizontally and upward, by placing them where the light came upon them from these several directions. They were drawn downward or upward at the rate of one to three inches a-day, and partially returned during the night to the position in which they had grown, until after about a week's time when they became fixed in a new direction. Buckwheat is very easily and quickly moved by the light. In one hour the leaves would often be attracted an inch or more.

In all these experiments the temperature was the same in-door and out, except in April and the first part of May, when it was a little warmer in the house; the effect of light, however, was just the same upon the plants. The experiments were not exposed to the wind or rain, or any other cause which could affect the result. The plants were noticed every few minutes, and the effects of the light measured.

11.—Portulacca plants growing in pots, in full bud, were taken from a north window, where no direct light came to them, and placed in a south window of another room in the direct rays of the sun. The buds were full and red, but completely closed and compact. In 45 minutes they were in full bloom. In another experiment, buds came out in 30 minutes, and, in one instance, in 20 minutes. They began to open in two or three minutes, and in five minutes the petals would be quite unfolded. A dandelion, completely closed, came out full in ten minutes, by the clock. These experiments were repeated very often, and afforded the most delightful amusement.

12.—Portulaccas with full red buds were placed in the dark for eight days, such buds as usually came out in the sun in twenty or thirty minutes, but they were not changed at the end of that time. The leaf buds of buckwheat remained unchanged in the same way. The light, therefore, in a proper temperature, must be the sole cause of the leafing and blossoming of plants and trees. Complete seclusion from the light

may be a difficult thing to obtain, as light, like heat and electricity, must be a relative substance or fluid, but complete darkness would prove complete death to the vegetable world.

The surfaces of both leaves and petals, or corollas, are the inner side in the bud, and are drawn outward by the light. The inside of the calyx is generally turned out in the same way. The light has the same attraction to all their surfaces, and draws them open. And as the leaf, in the foregoing experiments, partially returned to its accustomed position, so does the corrolla or petals and calyx. In some plants the closure, on the exclusion of light, or when night comes on, is quite complete, as in the tulip and dandelion; in others, but slight. But probably, in all, there is more or less tendency in petals and corollas to assume their natal shape, until the force of the light has overcome their elasticity and inured them to a new position. The rate at which petals are drawn, is greater than that of leaves. In the case of the dandelion, the petals must have been attracted an inch, at least, from their natal position, in the space of ten minutes, or at the rate of half a foot an hour. The tulip, and doubtless many other flowers, must exceed this rate, as they open and close daily.

The mathematical precision with which trees and plants grow in an upward or perpendicular direction, is entirely the effect of solar light, produced in the following way. The light has an attractive force (as has been seen by drawing plants either downward or upward) superior to that of gravity. To make the tree or plant erect, the light must shine during the day as long on one side as the other. This is precisely the fact during the time of its growth, or rather of its maturity. On the 20th of March the sun begins to shine on the north side of objects, and increases until the 20th of June, when it shines on the north side of a house or tree, in the course of the day, as long as on the south, and if we include the twilight, an hour or more longer. In the morning before 8 or 10, and in the evening after 4 o'clock, the direct rays of light fall upon the north side of trees and plants, and during mid day upon the south. For about two weeks in June, during the greatest growth of plants and trees, it is equal upon both sides, and from the middle of May to the middle of July only varies an hour or so. During this period the principal growth of plants and trees takes place; in the first part of their growth they point a little to the north, until the light becomes equally balanced on every side, when the wooding process commences or they become matured, and consequently fixed in a perpendicular direction. Most trees and plants in this latitude cease to grow by the middle of July. Those which grow after this time lean more or less to the south. A plant in a green-house, unmolested by wind, rain, dew and other causes, which begins to grow on the 20th of September, will lean, on the 20th of December, to the south, 23 degrees from a perpendicular line. If it begins to grow on the 20th December, it will lean to the south just half that number of degrees on the 20th of March. During this time the plant must not be moved, and it should grow from the seed in order to be fully sensible to the light.

This erect growth of trees and plants, by the equal adjustment of

light, is one of those wonderful facts in nature which must ever continue to astonish us, while it awakens our curiosity to explore the laws which produce it. Any other position would enfeeble their strength in the support of the enormous amount of leaves and fruit which they often sustain.

The affinity which light has for the living vegetable may properly enough be called sensitive attraction. We talk of the *life* of vegetables and of *sensitive* plants; what impropriety in calling a principle which appertains to the living plant, sensitive attraction? May not a plant have some relationship to an oyster or a polype? That such a species of attraction exists, no person can doubt who will take the pains to observe and experiment.

Every tree and plant is attracted to the greatest degree of light of which its fixed situation admits. This may be seen in all kinds of weeds and grasses growing about buildings and walls. Those upon the south side will lean southerly; those upon the north, northerly; those upon the west, will incline westerly; and those upon the east, easterly. All young trees and shrubs growing under large trees will incline towards that point from which comes the greatest quantity of light. Young pines, under large ones, will sometimes incline nearly half way to the ground. Trees on the edge of woods and groves incline to the most light, whether it be north or south, east or west, and an abundance of limbs put out in that direction, when on the other side of the tree there will be none. Dandelions, buttercups, and the pride of Venus, early spring flowers, incline to the south. Box, and other plants which grow late in the season, also incline to the south. At the summer solstice they are all erect, the most light being overhead. They are as true to the light as the magnet to the pole, and much more so. Wind, rain and dew change the direction of young plants and grasses, otherwise they would always be seen pointing to the greatest degree of light. Vines and creepers have an affinity for supporters stronger than that of light. Ivy clings to trees and walls when other plants would be drawn away by the light. Bean vines will be attracted to poles when the light would incline them another way. And yet without the light they would never mount the pole; to produce this effect, the two affinities must conspire or combine. As an acid or an alkali has an affinity to many other substances, so has the living seed or plant. A kernel of corn put into water of a certain temperature, sends forth a sprout and roots. Do the sprout and roots exist in the corn, or in the water? In neither. It is formed by the affinity which the seed has for water. Without the water there never could be a root or a sprout; and without the seed, the water could produce nothing. Does hard or Castile soap exist in the alkali, or in the oil? Perhaps it most resembles the oil, but the form exists in neither. Which is the nucleus in limestone, the lime or the carbonic acid gas? Could the stone ever be formed without the two elements? Is the form of copperas owing to the copper or to the sulphuric acid? Or that of green vitriol to the iron? Which is the *nucleus*? When quicksilver is poured upon the floor, it forms into beautiful globules. Is not the form owing to the attractions of cohesion and

gravitation? When water runs in a small, slow stream, it separates into round drops; whence does this form arise? Who doubts, in the present state of our knowledge, that the globular form of the earth was produced by the same forces? These may be considered the simplest forms of organization. The more complicated forms are produced by chemical attraction, and the most complicated by sensitive attraction.

An apple-seed is put into the ground, and in fifteen years it produces twenty or thirty bushels of fruit, and an immense amount of leaves and blossoms. Does all this fruit and foliage, and do all these flowers, pre-exist, or the image of them, in the apple-seed? Or what if it did, if the elements of water, air, light and the earthy constituents are wanting? The plant is formed like the globule of quicksilver, or the red rust upon a piece of iron, by the force of affinities. A root is changed into a stem, leaves and flowers; and the stem into roots, in the same way that soda is changed into salt, by the force of attraction. How much more do we know of the laws of matter by being told that the *nucleus* of iron ore is the iron? Is not the term organization used in too restricted a sense, and does it not apply as well to the organization of a stone or a coal-bed as to vegetables? In plants, the seed is but one element among several others equally essential to its development. The roots are attracted in the direction of water, and the vegetable or animal pabulum dissolved in it, as the stem is by the light. The sprout or shoot combines with several elements, and forms the tree. The vine is attracted to elevated objects for support and light. In a word, the whole work of vegetation is the play of affinities. But still the attraction which plants have for light, and objects for support, is different from chemical or any other species of attraction, as it appertains only to living vegetables and opposes other affinities. Sensitive attraction more properly expresses an idea of its nature, while the appellation is in strict conformity with existing language upon the subject of vegetable phenomena. When we see an ivy vine ascending a tall tree and clinging to it with all its might, which if a little pine would be bending away to the sun or a greater degree of light, to some distance from the tree, can we but recognize a species of attraction in vegetables different from every other? Is it the same species of attraction which opens the rose in the morning that causes the stone to fall; or the rust to gather on iron? Is it the same with that affinity which causes the floating iron and magnet in a basin of water to approach each other? People may consider them the same, if they choose, but does not such confounding of different kinds of attraction lead to confusion and error? Every other species of attraction acts upon dead, inert matter; but here is a power which we know to operate upon living matter, and to attract it in various directions and to determinate distances, in a given time, against the force of gravity.

October 1, 1853. SENSITIVUS.

POST-MORTEM EXAMINATION OF THE LATE DR. NEWTON.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

Sir,—The autopsical report of the late Calvin Newton M.D., which appeared in a recent number of your Journal, not having the least foundation in truth, and having been made without the knowledge or consent of us his attending physicians; we earnestly desire you to publish the following correct and truthful observations, made upon the body twenty-two hours after death.

Dr. C. Newton died at his residence in Worcester, Tuesday, August 9th, after a severe illness of ten weeks.

Post-Mortem Examination.—The external appearance of the body was plethoric and fleshy. The abdomen was very tumid and tympanitic. On exposing the thoracic and abdominal viscera, an inordinate quantity of fat was found to thicken the abdominal parietes and envelope the internal organs.

The mucous membrane of the air-passages was somewhat injected and reddened. Lungs but slightly engorged. Heart essentially healthy. Stomach nearly empty, its mucous coat softened, thinned in bands and mammillated.

The mucous surface of the intestinal canal exhibited a well-marked and interesting pathological condition. Duodenal or Brunner's glands were manifestly swelled and inflamed; the mucous membrane in their vicinity was disorganized to some extent. Solitary and mesenteric glands were found to participate in the unhealthy change. Peyer's glands were enlarged, and the patches presented a thickened and rough appearance, bordering on ulceration. The mucous coat near the cœcum was completely disorganized, the lesion being most extensive at this point, with less appearance of diseased action higher up in the intestines. Liver natural size, somewhat softened, pale and dry on incision; bile abundant, fluid, and of a greenish color; gall-bladder and ducts natural. Spleen enlarged, weighing 12¾ ounces, softened almost to a complete pulpy mass. Kidneys and bladder healthy.

In the right iliac region was found a quantity of extravasated blood, principally involving the internal oblique muscle, and extending down into the right inguinal region.

Head showed no essential anatomical lesion—dura mater everywhere adherent to the cranium, as it usually is in health, and perfectly natural. Arachnoid was transparent, presenting a healthy aspect throughout its entire extent. Between the pia mater and the investing portion of the arachnoid was found a moderate amount of serous effusion; perhaps the quantity in all might have been from one to one and a half ounces. The pia mater was unusually vascular; there was also more or less effusion into its meshes, sufficient, perhaps, to characterize what is termed edema of the meninges. Encephalon was firm, and presented no trace of disease.

F. H. Kelley, M.D.
G. M. Nichols, M.D.

Worcester, Oct. 1, 1853.

THE BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

BOSTON, OCTOBER 12, 1853.

Public Nuisances.—It is a more difficult question to decide what is a public nuisance, in regard to health, than might at first be supposed. No two persons view a given case in the same light, unless both have an interest in the matter swaying them the same way, and then somebody invariably objects to their opinion. Two physicians, as frequently as otherwise, are so directly opposed to each other, that a court is compelled to disregard their testimony and fall back upon something else. Such cases have repeatedly agitated an extensive neighborhood, and litigation followed litigation, till the lawyers got all the money which both parties could possibly spare, the nuisance remaining precisely in the same condition as at first. The following case is of recent occurrence.

A pond in a village, which had always been full of water since the memory of man, being drawn off by the owner, the exposure of a vast body of mud, principally made up of decomposed vegetable matter, was the consequence, the gaseous exhalations from which were excessively offensive. Mr. Jones paid no attention to the remonstrances of his neighbors, because it was his property, and he wished to reclaim and cultivate the land, which could not be accomplished without drawing off the water. A next resource was a court of justice. All the neighborhood bore willing testimony to the offensiveness of the nuisance, which smelt horribly. The physicians explained scientifically how prejudicial it was to health, and the disastrous consequences that would accrue if suffered to remain. In short, it was their deliberate judgment, if the pond was not at once reflowed, disease and death would be caused among the villagers. On the other hand, Mr. Jones brought his hired men into court, who had been daily at work knee-deep in the alleged pestiferous mass, who were in excellent health, and in no manner of way affected by the terrible stench. There was no denying their declarations, because all of them were powerful fellows, strong enough to carry the bench and attorneys on their shoulders. Owing to the conflicting character of the evidence, as presented by the medical experts, the mud-diggers and the house owners of the village, the jury could not agree, and the complainants were obliged to begin de novo. Some months elapsed before the machinery of the law was again in free running order. In the mean time, though everybody was convinced that the smell was abominable, no one had been made sick, nor died, as the faculty had predicted. One and another of the witnesses were tired of wasting their time in attendance in the county town, just to oblige those who were determined to refill the pond, if they emptied their pockets in accomplishing the undertaking, and the evidence became amazingly debilitated; and although other physicians were summoned to sustain the reputation of their peers, the second trial turned out like the first, the jury again disagreeing. All this while the mud was gradually drying up, though lawyers were becoming plethoric with large fees. Finally, when the complainants had seriously impoverished themselves, and the defendant was half ruined in defence of his rights, the suit was abandoned. And well it might be, for no sickness had been produced, and the old pond had now become a beautiful garden. The doctors lost some reputation, notwithstanding they were unanimously of the opinion that the season was uncommonly favorable to the preservation of the public health!

This is a fair illustration of the course and finale of lawsuits instituted for the abatement of nuisances. A hundred acres of dock mud, at ebb tide, are quite as much of a nuisance as a slaughter house, soap works, and such like places of industrial pursuits; but neither of them were ever positively demonstrated to be productive of disease, however intolerable their odor.

Surgeon's Splints.—At Lakeville, Conn., is a manufactory of splints, made of alternate layers of wood and gutta percha, which recommend themselves at sight. They are extremely light, elastic, and moulded to fit every limb, and can be also readily adjusted to persons of different forms, size or height. Even a permanent extension of the lower limbs is admirably maintained. Dr. B. Welch, the inventor, has fairly distanced all competitors, and furnished the surgeon with splints that meet all conditions of broken bones. There is a finish to them, quite unusual in such apparatus; and instead of being injured by use, there is no reason why a set of them should not last fifty years. In hospital as well as in private practice, it is presumed they will supersede all others now in use. By simply dipping one of them in warm water, it is instantly moulded to any shape required, and there it holds. Those parts which are designed for bracing joints, are curious, as individual specimens of mechanism, to assist nature in keeping injured parts in place, while the healing process is being accomplished. Complete cases, containing a perfect set of these splints, may be seen at Dr. Cheever's store, Tremont Temple, Boston.

Transactions of the American Medical Association.—Uuless medical gentlemen, throughout the Union, give their immediate assistance, the voluminous publication intended for their use, and which will transmit to posterity the scientific labors of the American medical profession in 1853, must pass very heavily and tardily through the press. If the brotherhood in the interior transmit their names at once to Dr. D. Francis Condie, Philadelphia, some calculation can be made of the number of copies that may be safely struck off. Some fine illustrations have been prepared for the volume; and besides, two prize essays of a highly meritorious character are embraced in it, worth more than the whole will cost. It would be a lasting reproach to the medical intelligence of the country, if the Association is not sustained in the enterprise of publishing a permanent record of its doings, to be referred to in all coming time. The faculty ought not to require prompting, and we feel quite sure that this statement will be sufficient to arouse the attention of practitioners all over the country.

Manual of Obstetrics.—Messrs. S. S. & Wm. Wood, 264 Pearl street, New York, are the publishers of a neat duodecimo volume, with the above title, by Thomas W. Cock, M.D., Physician to the New York Lying-in Hospital, &c. Dr. Cock modestly introduces himself to the world of accoucheurs, by announcing the fact, that his book makes no pretensions to originality. It would be preposterous in this age of civilization, to intimate anything especially new in midwifery. Still, this branch of medicine is progressive, though its improvements consist in persuading sensible men and women to abandon many useless practices that embarrass nature in her regular operations, and thus peril the patient. Singular as it may appear to some, there are scores of people who contemplate child-birth as a severe

disease, demanding constant interference to manage to a successful termination. Now the real fact is, that in itself it is no disease all, and the best system of obstetrical practice is the one that most clearly and forcibly establishes this truth. Still, in the various complications of midwifery a book like this of Dr. Cock's is invaluable. It tells the young practitioner precisely what to do, and when to do it, as well as what to abstain from. Beginning on the 160th page, a group of important subjects are considered, and the way made clear in cases where the formidable symptoms present would lead to doubt and hesitancy. The different topics connected with labor, treated of by Dr. C., are precisely what the new beginner wishes to know about; and even experienced accoucheurs are never injured by being refreshed with repetitions of what they knew before. The more we have examined the treatise, the better we like it, and we think it ought to have an extensive sale. Copies are to be had at Ticknor & Co.'s, Washington street.

Diseases of Children.—The fourth edition of Dr. Condie's celebrated "Practical Treatise on the Diseases of Children," from the press of Messrs. Blanchard & Lea, Philadelphia, is ready for the profession. The talented author observes, in the preface, that the demand for another edition has afforded him "an opportunity of again subjecting the entire treatise to a careful revision, and of incorporating in it every important observation recorded since the appearance of the last edition, in reference to the pathology and therapeutics of the several diseases of which it treats." As all practitioners are familiar, both with the character of Dr. Condie as a careful writer, and the intrinsic value of his work in a difficult branch of medicine, this edition, in its new dress and internal perfections, must necessarily be in far greater request than the previous ones.

Influence of Climate on Tubercular Disease.—This was the theme of a learned discourse before the South Carolina Medical Association, at its annual meeting, almost a year ago. Notwithstanding the unwelcome truth that consumption puts at defiance all medication in its treatment, we are bound to listen to whatever promises best for its amelioration or cure. Dr. Amory Coffin offers encouragement to the class of sufferers for whom we have no balm in any Gilead of the North. He presents philosophical views of the value of different kinds of climate, as the moist and warm, cold and clear, dry and moderately cold, warm and dry, &c. On the whole, it is worthy of a far wider circulation than it has probably had, because it enlarges our knowledge of the sanitary resources of our beloved country, and demonstrates a cheering prospect of relief from suffering, if not a perfect restoration to health, by a temporary but seasonable change of locality.

Pharmaceutical Association.—The published report of the transactions of this very excellent association, has been distributed. It is hardly worth while to copy from its pages, as a detailed account of each day's doings was circulated very generally, while the members were in session in Boston. William A. Brewer, of Massachusetts, is president, and the society numbers forty druggists, chemists and apothecaries, who are leading men in the business to which they are devoted, in the principal cities of the United States. Accompanying this interesting document are reports of the Colleges of Pharmacy in different States, equally useful as a reference.

Death of Dr. Warner, of Connecticut.—Dr. Richard Warner, of Cromwell, Ct., died on the 29th ult., aged 58. He was President of the Medical Society of the State, a good physician and citizen, and much endeared to the community in which he lived. Dr. W. B. Casey, of Middletown, editor of the "Morning News," gives the following account of his sickness and death:—

"The doctor had been in feeble health for the most part of the summer, but had continued to attend to his business up to the very evening preceding his death. On Wednesday (which was a stormy, chilly day) he had been much exposed to the weather, and on his return home, about 6, P.M., complained of feeling very unwell, and was soon afterwards seized with violent symptoms from which he obtained some relief in the course of the night. His strength failed rapidly, however, and when, on Thursday, about 11, A.M., we visited him in consultation with Dr. Gilbert of Portland, we found him pulseless and evidently in a dying condition. He expired about 1, P.M. In company with Drs. Harrison and Woodruff, we made a post-mortem examination of his body, and found that the immediate cause of his death was a rupture of the gall-bladder produced by violent vomiting. The intestines also manifested evidences of severe and chronic disease.

Palmer's Artificial Legs.—An anonymous writer has sent us a communication in regard to the excellences of Palmer's wooden legs, and intended as a reply to some queries in a late number of this Journal. If the writer had appended his name, it would have been far better, as we should have been more ready to insert his communication entire, and others would then have known whom to address if felt called upon to comment upon his paper. It is an invariable rule of this Journal to require the name of a writer wherever facts are concerned, or where the possibility exists of stirring up a controversy or even exciting unpleasant feelings. Exact impartiality has always been our object, endeavoring to have each and all benefited according to their just claims and merits. The writer referred to states that at the late Fair in this city, Palmer's legs were exhibited, and that Mr. Sanford, of Medford, who lost both of his legs at the time of the great tornado in 1851, and whose case has been related in this Journal, was also present with a pair of these legs, showing, in his daily walk and active operations, that no improvements have been made or are needed in them. "Sanford," he says, "with a pair of Palmer's artificial legs, and with one artificial knee-joint, uses only one cane in his walks of over a mile at a time, up hill and down, and upon the wet and slippery side-walks of Boston, in a very natural, easy, and perfectly reliable manner, so much so as to deceive any one not cognizant of his case."

Geneva Medical College—Professor Bryan.—We have received from Prof. Charles A. Lee a statement relative to the suspension of the course of lectures the present season in the Geneva Medical College, whose "natural death" was rather prematurely announced last week. It will be inserted in the next number. Professor James Bryan, who was one of the faculty in the Geneva College, and also in the Philadelphia College of Medicine, has resigned his chair in the latter College, and has commenced a course of private lectures in Philadelphia, the success of which has our best wishes.

Illegible Address.—Correspondents sometimes write to the editor on business, which to them is of particular importance, but whose names are written so illegibly that it is impossible to decypher them. We have sometimes, when the post-office address could be made out, cut out the mysterious scrawl, and pasted it on a return letter, and run for luck. Another kind of grievance arises from writers sometimes not mentioning the State from which their letters are sent. A letter written at "*Rochester*," last week, produced much perplexity, no State being mentioned, and the post-office mark being indistinct. Among about thirty Rochesters in the United States, it was impossible to say which was the one. We beg our friends to bear this trifling matter in mind.

Post-mortem of the late Dr. Newton.—It will be seen that a report in the present, number of a post-mortem examination of Dr. Calvin Newton, of Worcester, differs in many points from the one drawn up and published in this Journal some weeks since by Dr. Johnson. As both parties give their names to their reports, there is no occasion for any other comment than that we are unacquainted with the circumstances which have caused a discrepancy of opinion between them.

Medical Miscellany.—Dr. Henry S. Patterson, the distinguished Professor of Materia Medica and Therapeutics in the Medical Department of Pennsylvania College, has withdrawn from the active duties of that Chair, in consequence of enfeebled health, and has been transferred to the Emeritus Professorship. The vacancy thus created has been filled by the election of Dr. John B. Biddle, of Philadelphia, formerly Professor of Materia Medica and Therapeutics in Franklin Medical College, and lecturer on the same branches in the Philadelphia Medical Institute.—On the Mississippi, above New Orleans, the yellow fever is sweeping off many of the inhabitants.—Africa has had a year of health.—Warts are said to be cured by the internal use of carbonate of magnesia.—Gleason's Pictoral newspaper says that a physician on the margin of the Western Railroad desires to sell out to a person who wishes to acquire a knowledge of surgery!—Mrs. Elizabeth Perkins died at East Boston lately, at the advanced age of 99 years and 5 months—probably, at the time of her death, the oldest person in Boston.—Dr. Marshall Hall left Boston, last week, on his way to the southern States. He intends going to China ultimately.

MARRIED,—J. B. S. Jackson, M.D., of Boston, to Miss E. J. Andrews.—R. D. Hay, M.D., o Madison, N. C., to Miss M. L. Russell.

DIED,—Dr. Richard Warner, of Cromwell, Conn., aged 58.—In New York city, Dr. Edward P. Diffin, killed by falling from a railroad train, aged 30.—In New Orleans, by yellow fever, A. M. Nye, M.D., a native of New York.—Dr. Jacobson, a Swede by birth.—In New York, Dr. James Trenor.

Deaths in Boston for the week ending Saturday noon, Oct. 8th, 82. Males, 45—females, 37. Abscess, 1—inflammation of the bowels, 6—inflammation of the brain, 2—congestion of the brain, 2—consumption, 10—convulsions, 3—cholera infantum, 2—croup, 4—cancer, 1—dysentery, 7—diarrhœa, 3—dropsy, 2—debility, 3—infantile diseases, 6—puerperal, 1—typhus fever, 3—typhoid fever, 2—inflammation of the lungs, 3—marasmus, 4—measles, 1—old age, 1—pleurisy, 1—palsy, 1—rheumatism, 1—scrofula, 1—teething, 8—thrush, 1—unknown, 1— worms, 1.

Under 5 years, 43—between 5 and 20 years, 7—between 20 and 40 years, 19—between 40 and 60 years, 8—above 60 years, 5. Born in the United States, 55—Ireland, 23—British Provinces, 2—England, 1—Sweden, 2 The above includes 9 deaths at the City Institutions.

Case of Catalepsy—Long-continued Sleep.—In the Number of this Journal for June 22, 1853, we inserted Dr. Dolley's account of a very remarkable case of muscular rigidity, with loss of consciousness and volition. Mr. Vroomer, the man there alluded to, has since been publicly exhibited in the city of New York, and has been visited by many of the faculty of that city. Dr. Tuthill, of the New York Daily Times, gives an interesting notice of him, from which, on account of the singularity of the case, we copy the following additional particulars.

"We called yesterday to see the man who has been asleep for five years. We found him in what seemed like a sound sleep. He was lying in bed, his eyes nearly closed, his respiration rather slower than is usual, his breathing a little stertorous, pulse some seventy-five strokes in a minute, soft and weak. On attempting to open his eyes, he firmly closed them, and when, by force, the lids were opened, the eyes were rolled upward, so that it was impossible to see the pupils. The mouth was slightly opened; on attempting to open it wider, the jaws were instantly locked. There was a constant tremor of the eyelids, and from his mouth there was some drivelling. His body was extremely emaciated; his arms were folded upon his breast, and any attempt to remove them was strongly resisted. The muscles seemed rigid and tense when the effort was made, and indeed it was impossible, without violence, to change at all the position of his limbs. Once during our stay he drew a long breath, like a man who is about to turn in his sleep. At another time he hitched himself up a little in his bed. He was lifted up bodily and seated on the side of the bed; his head was still bent forward on his chest, his legs crooked under him at the same angle, and his arms folded as when he was lying. There was nothing to indicate that he would not retain the same position for weeks. We lifted one foot, the other came up with it. There was little or no bending at the knee, or at the hip; the feet were raised only as the upper part of the body was carried backwards. He was placed standing upon the floor. It required a few moments to balance him exactly; after that he stood in the same position so long as we remained; there was nothing to indicate that he would not maintain the same posture for a month. His diet consists principally of milk, sometimes with a little bread soaked in it. It is with some difficulty that it can be administered. The jaws must be forced open as in tetanus, and the liquid poured in between his teeth. Once he went without any food for five days; but his friends objected to any farther conduct of the experiment, though there was no change in his symptoms during that time. When the seizure occurred, he is said to have weighed 160 pounds; now, he cannot weigh over 90 pounds. His height was six feet two inches. The secretion of the kidneys is discharged once or twice a day; it is very high colored, and not much diminished in quantity. Possibly it is from habit, possibly from some remains of consciousness, that in this matter he is subject to the wishes of his attendants. The alvine evacuations are very scanty, occuring not oftener than at intervals of from six to twenty days."

Cholera in England.—The cholera, in its western march, has again reached England, and is carrying off the victims of filth and intemperance in the seaport towns. At Newcastle, where its virulence is greatest, the deaths averaged, at the last dates, about one hundred and ten a day. In other places, the returns show from one or two deaths, to thirty, daily.